**Resilient Georgia Regional Grantee Coalitions**

**Six Month Progress Report Questionnaire**

* Please identify which city you are operating out of: Rome, GA
* What is the name of your coalition (if any)? Building a Region of Resilience Northwest Georgia (Georgia Family Connection Region 1 Peer-to-Peer Network)
* Who are the main point(s) of contact?
* What are their email(s) and/or phone #'s?
  + Fiscal Agent – LaDonna Collins, Rome-Floyd Commission on Children and Youth: [lcollins@rfcccy.org](mailto:lcollins@rfcccy.org); 706-844-4952
  + Lead Partner – Doug Belisle, Bartow Collaborative: [bartowcollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:bartowcollaborative@gmail.com); 678-719-2041
  + PTPN Chair -Jacque Elwarner, Pickens County Family Connection: [pickensfamilyconnection@gmail.com](mailto:pickensfamilyconnection@gmail.com); 770-383-0510
  + Project Manager – Gabrielle Stewart, Georgia Family Connection Partnership: [gabrielle@gafcp.org](mailto:gabrielle@gafcp.org); 678-358-2235
  + Who are members of the coalition or partners engaged in this work? Please include primary organization and title.

Georgia Family Connection Collaborative Partners

* Mallory Vaughn Coordinator, Catoosa County Family Collaborative, Inc.
* Maisha Ludy, Coordinator, Chattooga County Collaborative
* Martha Baker, Coordinator, DADE First – Family Connection
* Sherry Morris, Executive Director, Fannin County Family Connection
* Tiffany Watson, Executive Director, Gilmer County Family Connection Commission
* Jennifer Dobbs, Coordinator, Haralson Coalition for Children, Youth and Families, Inc.
* Pam Bishop, Coordinator, Murray County Family Connection
* Michele Craig, Executive Director, Paulding Family Connection
* Rhonda Heuer, Coordinator, Polk Family Connection
* Laura Beth Newsom, Coordinator, Walker County Family Connection
* Lori McDaniel, Executive Director, Children and Families First Community Partnership for Dalton/Whitfield

County Lead Partners

* Amanda Carden, Director, Carroll County Child Advocacy Center
* Amy Denny, Associate Director of Adult Education, Chattahoochee Technical College
* Angela Moore, Director, Children in Need of Services – Polk Co.
* Barbara Hoffman, Executive Director, Recovery Bartow
* Felicia Foster, Community Volunteer – Chattooga
* Candy Hullender, Coordinator, Catoosa Prevention Initiative
* Jackie Taylor, Lead Social Worker, Dalton Public Schools
* Linda Verscharen, Executive Director, Family Alliance of Paulding
* Kimberly Parker, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Reinhardt University – Cauble School of Nursing and Health Sciences
* Kirk Cameron, Executive Director, The Craddock Center
* Kristin Barret, Social Worker, Dade County Schools
* Rachel Castillo, President/CEO, Advocates for Children
* Robin Samples, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Walker County Board of Education
* Tara Jones, Lead Social Worker, Murray County Schools
* Tonya Plant, Wrap-Around Services & PBIS Director for NWGA Region Schools, NWGA RESA
* Tracie Simmons, Lead Social Worker, Whitfield County Schools

Regional Partners

* Lea Bennett Fantom, Region 1 Prevention Coordinator, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
* Mary Margaret Mauer, Executive Director, Restoration Rome
* Suzanne Harbin, Director of Early Childhood Initiative, Community Foundation for NW Georgia
* Glenda J. Davis-Canteen, Early Education Community Partnership Regional Coordinator (Northwest), Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
* Dr. Robbie Y. Vincent, Coordinator, PBIS and School Climate, Northwest Georgia RESA
* Anna Giddens, BS, Training and Implementation Team Lead, Community Support Specialist, District 5, Georgia HOPE
* Shannon Weist, Ed.S., PBIS Program Specialist, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Unit, Office of Teaching and Learning, Georgia Department of Education
* Rebecca Blanton, School Climate Transformation Grant Manager, Project AWARE Grant Manager, Teaching and Learning, Georgia Department of Education
* Anthony Dye, Executive Director, Children’s Advocacy Center -Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
* Deborah Chosewood, Deputy Section Director - Prevention and Community Support Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
* Jennifer Stein, Executive Director for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

Program Implementation Partners

* Alan Kiker, Board Chair, Action Ministries - Haralson
* Angela Moore, Coordinator, Children in Need of Services – Haralson County
* Belinda Bentley, Executive Director CASA – Haralson County
* Debbie Ross, Regional Program Coordinator, Ferst Readers Chattooga & Polk
* Donna Grogan, Executive Director, Cedartown United Fund
* Heather Blackmon, Executive Director, LMO Pregnancy Center
* Kelsei Pullen, Executive Director, Our House Battered Women’s Shelter
* Kayla Kinser, School Social Worker, Pickens County Schools
* Kim Stafford, Development Director, Boys and Girls Club Murray County
* Scott Fuller, Stewardship and Development Officer Advancement, Murphy Harpst Children Center
* Patricia Thompson, Business Manager, Salvation Army - Whitfield
* Tommy Baker, Coordinator, Paxen/Eckerd Connect

**Progress To Date Questions**

For the following questions, when applicable, you can choose to focus your answers on progress made during the last 6 months and activities planned over the next 6 months. These answers will help inform your next annual report due at the end of Year 2 of the grant cycle.

* Description of ACEs Prevention and Trauma-Informed awareness and care related efforts:
  + Are you engaged in any Advocacy or Policy strengthening activities or other forms of Activism? If so, please describe current efforts, including key accomplishments till date, any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any

Our Collaboratives have participated in, sponsored and hosted several advocacy activities this year reaching approximately 1,000 individuals. As a region, we have been implementing quarterly stakeholder meetings, movie screenings of the documentary Broken Places and a new messaging campaign for wellness with our school systems and their employees. We continue to partner with local DFCS professionals, school systems, civic organization and other social service providers, attending their meetings and making presentations to their staff to ensure understanding of the challenges facing our children and families, the implementation of our work and the resources we can provide. Additionally, individual counties have participated in or implemented local advocacy activities including Civic Dinners, participation in Local Interagency Planning Team, Truancy Treatment and Family Staffing meetings to advocate for the needs of children and families and connect them to our partners’ resources. Lastly, we support our local Chambers, Child Advocacy Centers, Recovery Organizations and Early Care and Learning Centers. Details on those activities are below.

* Regional Activities
* ***Building a Region of Resilience (BRR) Stakeholder Meetings –*** Starting in the spring of 2021, the region began hosting quarterly meetings for our collaborative leadership and their Lead Partners and Boards to engage them in our coalition’s work, increase their understanding of the impact of trauma and poverty on our work and ensure our regional strategy implementation is in line with the annual plans being implemented in their communities. During the first meeting, we affirmed the group’s priorities for work in year two and from that built a comprehensive priority map. The map outlines coalition activities that align with our theory of change. Those activities were “mapped” to the Strengthening Families 5 Protective Factors and regional and state initiatives like TBRI Georgia and DFCS Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan implementation. Subsequent quarterly meetings have been utilized to build greater understanding and use of our common language related to poverty and trauma and help our partners understand our frameworks (TBRI and Strengthening Families) and how they relate to our theory of change and priority frameworks. Our January meeting included a presentation from Deborah Chosewood, Deputy Section Director - Prevention and Community Support Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and Jennifer Stein, Executive Director for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. They presented A Vision for Child and Family Well-being, the state’s child abuse and neglect prevention plan (CANNP), highlighting priorities for DFCS Regions 1 & 3 covering our service area. A copy of the priority map and a recording of the CANNP presentation can be found on the homepage of our coalition’s website: [www.ResilientNWGA.org](http://www.ResilientNWGA.org) .
* ***“Broken Places” screening*** – The region is set for a total of 5 screenings of the documentary “Broken Places,” hosted in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Georgia. The first viewing on November 8, 2021 was attended by 21 participants and the January screening was host to 35 participants. The additional screenings take place in February (2/11/22), March (3/12/22), and April (4/12/22).
* ***Be Your Own LifeSAVERS and Compassion Fatigue Training*** – Through a partnership with North and Northwest Georgia RESA and the Department of Education, we have been implementing a monthly self-care communication campaign with school system employees, focused on teachers. The SAVERS acronym aligns with six habits or rituals that can improve morning routines, which in turn, helps to improve the entire day: Silence your mind; Affirmations; Visualization; Exercise; Reading; and Scribing. Each month a video explaining the concept and linking to resources is shared via YouTube, emails to school administrators and via our Family Connection Collaborative list serve. Viewers are asked to implement the habit and complete a 1 question Google Survey. Survey completion automatically enters their name in a drawing for one of five $25 VISA Gift Cards. This incentive has proven to help us ensure participation by word-of-mouth within the school system. The initial video in October received 319 views, while November (Silence) and December (Affirmation) videos received 239 views each.

As part of the initiative, we hosted and recorded a short training on Compassion Fatigue facilitated by Anna Giddens from Georgia HOPE. It also included a highlight on the Walker County School System’s *#intentionalwellness* program to help administrators better understand how they can incorporate wellness into their culture with real-world examples. The recording has been posted on our website, shared via our Facebook Group and added to the Georgia HOPE YouTube Channel. In the spring, we will be adding a dedicated Compassion Fatigue page to our website with information and resources.

* + ***BRR Book Club*** – In an effort to raise community awareness and support the building of a common language on poverty and trauma, the coalition will be hosting 3 book studies in the Spring. We have 25 copies of each book to lend to community members for their participation. We will be reading *What Happened to You?* In April, using the Georgia Reads state-specific book study guide created in partnership with the author, Dr. Perry. In May, we will read Donna Beegle’s *See Poverty… Be the Difference* on which much of our poverty 101 workshop is based. In June, we will be reading Bessel Van Der Kolk, M.D.’s book *The Body Keeps the Score* a recommended read by the creators of TBRI. A Book Study committee of 4 coordinators and the Regional Manager are working to create discussion questions, as well as design invitations and a process for registration and book check out.
  + Georgia’s ***Vision for Child and Family Well-being,*** the state’s child abuse and neglect prevention plan (CANPP) - In addition to mapping our strategy/activities with the priorities of the state’s plan, several of our coalition’s leaders sit on the workgroups moving forward the plan’s regional priorities, serving as leads on several DFCS Region 1 & 3 priority activities.
* Advocacy for Caregivers, Parents, Adoption, Foster and Kinship Care
* Sponsorship for the Child Advocacy Center Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit’s ***4th Annual Child Abuse Conference and Golf Tournament*** was provided via county specific BRR funds from the collaboratives in Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade and Walker. The conference included mental health and law enforcement tracks. The focus was on Poly-victimization and the Keynote speaker was Amy Hutsell, Director of the Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse Unit at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. All four Family Connection Coordinators attended the conference and participated in capacity building workshops.
* ***Floyd Co. – Parent Ambassador Committee*** - Since July 2021, the Parent Ambassador Committee members have taken on a leadership role, leveraging the skills built in their personal development sessions in the first quarter. These sessions were implemented every month. Now these parents are serving as meeting hosts, planning content, securing childcare, and setting meeting agendas. They have invited peers to attend Preview Night to prepare for a new session beginning mid-February. These parents shared back to school resources and when necessary, the collaborative filled the gap on unmet needs.

We are so proud of the growth of these parents. Since the PAC began:

* + One mother has created her own business and is enrolling in college courses,
  + Another mother is making a conscious effort to be present when she is able to see her daughter who has been adopted by another family,
  + One parent has moved from working just a few hours per week, to working overtime.

The Collaborative is looking forward to getting in a new group of parents for PAC and having the parents that were enrolled for the year of 2021 to serve as mentors.

* Paulding Family Connection worked with the DFCS Advisory Council to organize the ***Paulding Adoption Celebration***, an event that honored parents who finalized adoptions and children who found forever homes in 2020 and 2021. Local judges and city council members were approached to present and sign a declaration in celebration of permanency placements for fostered children. Families were given certificates in honor of kinship caregiving and permanency placement.
* Polk Family Connection is working with 3 parent leaders to build a ***Parent Advisory Committee*** designed to increase their leadership capacity, while helping the collaborative and its partners better identify and meet the needs of struggling families.
* Whitfield’s Family Connection Collaborative works with partners to provide activities and wrap around service to their two ***Communities of Hope.*** This initiative wraps the services of collaborative partners around the families in these high-risk neighborhoods. They provide special activities for children and work to identify family needs and facilitate connection to resources.
* Civic Dinners (Inclusivv Conversations) and Community Awareness Events
  + ***Fannin Civic Dinner*** – Using the Nurturing Communities questions generated by DFCS, the Fannin County Family Connection (FCFC) Collaborative hosted 56 community and collaborative members to discuss what it means to live in a nurturing community and what we can all do to improve resilience factors. Feedback from the 3 discussion questions was shared with the collaborative’s Poverty Workgroup to inform planning and strategy implementation for the remainder of the fiscal year. The workgroup is transitioning into a strategy team and the collaborative has recently trained “Ambassadors” who will link families with needed community resources.
  + ***Fannin County Eggs & Issues Breakfast*** – The collaborative hosted 72 participants at the Eggs and Issues breakfast where local and state legislative activities were discussed. Speaker of the House, David Ralston, and Senator Steve Gooch were guests. Both legislators and other local dignitaries toured the collaborative’s food pantry and family resource center. Discussions about the FCFC Mental Health Awareness Campaign was held during the meeting, as well.
  + Floyd County ***Little Black Dress IMPACT*** (LBDI) was hosted by the Collaborative. LBDI is a weeklong awareness campaign to shine a light on the existence of poverty and trauma in the community. During LBDI, participants wear 1 black dress or outfit for five consecutive days without washing it, illustrating the impact of limited resources on access and opportunities. This campaign is designed to spark conversation about the lived experience of those struggling in the crisis of poverty.
  + ***Murray Civic Dinner*** – Using the Parenting in a Pandemic questions generated by GEEARS, the 64 participants included Senator Chuck Payne, Commissioner Hogan, law enforcement, civic clubs, Chamber of Commerce, collaborative and community members. Participants discussed issues related to parenting in the COVID pandemic, recovery after the April 2021 tornado, mental health challenges in the community, and the introduction of new industries to Murray County.
  + Polk Family Connection*co*-hosted several **local radio broadcasts** to provide awareness of community resources related to teen pregnancy prevention, parenting, access to infant supplies, promotion of positive mental health and parent engagement at school, as well as suicide prevention during the month of September. In addition, they represented the Building a Region of Resilience work in several community events including the Pumpkin Pal Fundraiser and the Polk County Fair.
  + ***Pickens Homelessness and Poverty Community Discussion*** – 32 Collaborative partners participated in a guided discussion on the current state of homelessness and foster placement in the county (55 students coded homeless, 21 in foster care in Pickens County Schools). The school system reported on services and resources they provide, as well as the strain on families when distance learning is employed. Community partners discussed ways they can bring awareness to the issues including hosting a Reality Store event for students and a Walk A Mile in Their Shoes event to highlight poverty and collect needed shoes for school age children.

We have budgeted for each county to host an Inclusivv Conversation this year and are asking them to use the discussion questions created in partnership with DFCS Office of Prevention and that align with the priorities of the state’s CANPP. We will share the outcomes of those conversations in our end of grant report.

* Chamber, Civic Organizations and Community Outreach
  + Catoosa Family Connection supported their Chamber by networking with business professionals and sharing information about the collaborative with members at the ***Chamber’s Annual Membership Appreciation Picnic.***
  + ***Fannin Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Open House*** - Community members received a tour of the food pantry and information about the FCFC’s Family Resource Center and resource available from collaborative partners. An additional tour was help with business owners and community activists who are officers of the Lake Blue Ridge Civic Association.
  + Gilmer Family Connection’s coordinator presented at the local ***Rotary Club*** to raise awareness of the Building A Region of Resilience initiative and engage their members in collaborative activities, including Christmas benevolence.
  + Haralson Family Connection participated in several community events to raise awareness of child and family issues and engage the community in the implementation of their annual plan and our BRR work including the ***Community Foundation of West Georgia Roundtable***, ***Wobble Before you Gobble 5K***, and Haralson County High School’s ***Be the Voice*** and FBLA’s ***Sock Drive***. Additionally, the coordinator educated ***Bremen*** ***Rotary*** ***Club*** Members (15 total) on issues related to poverty and the resources available within their community.
  + The Murray Family Connection:
    - The coordinator attended the ***Chamber of Commerce RoundTable*** to discuss the impacts of the COVID pandemic and how community leaders, government agencies, parents and volunteers can work together to meet growing community needs.
    - Worked with local partners to plant 125 flags on the courthouse lawn in support of veterans for ***Flags Across Murray***.
    - Hosted Christmas in the Park, in which their partners set up booths to distribute items to the community. This is combined with a Christmas Tree display in which each tree is decorated by a local agency to align with their mission and help community members better understand what they do and why. The event includes a family night with a visit from Santa and holiday entertainment.
  + ***Community Collaboration Team with the Paulding Chamber of Commerce*** – This committee was formed in partnership with local businesses to address the employment challenges faced by residents after completing recovery or graduating from the county’s mental health court.

Additionally, the collaborative supported the Chamber’s ***Hearts for Heroes*** celebration of veterans and first responders by providing attending families with books and guidance on quality interactive time with their children. There was an emphasis on service-related careers and nurturing relationships with caregivers and public safety personnel.

* + At the ***Cedartown City Commissioner’s Meeting*** the Polk Family Connection coordinator facilitated a presentation regarding the collaborative’s strategy and One Door Polk partner’s State of Hope grant award and program. It included an overview of ACEs and resilience and introduced BRR activities to staff and elected officials.
* Get Georgia Reading, Early Education and Literacy and School Success
* Bartow County continued our work with DECAL and their ***Early Learning Leadership Collaborative (ELLC)***.  They received additional grant money ($5000) to provide TIC trainings and resources focused on early learning centers.  The Family Connection coordinator participated in an ELLC panel discussion at DECAL's 2nd Annual Building Community Resilience to Address Early Childhood Trauma.  The virtual conference was held in November and again in December, and he participated in the panel on both dates.
* The Family Connection coordinator in Gilmer presented to their ***Chamber leadership*** on the importance of childhood education, overviewing outcome data for their county. An additional presentation was made at the ***Chamber Board*** retreat advocating for participation in implementing the collaborative’s strategy to improve child and family health and well-being.

The collaborative supported the Leadership Gilmer program and educated the current class on their resource directory and how to utilize it.

* Paulding Family Connection’s Coordinator participated in the ***Superintendent’s Community Stakeholders*** meeting to advocate for children and their families during discussions related to improving the learning environment within the school system.
* Funding from BRR allowed Polk Family Connection’s ***Get Polk Reading*** to work with the schools for Read for the Record. They purchased 100 English and 50 Spanish books and distributed them in elementary school classes and preschools. Over 1000 volunteers and students participated. Although COVID restrictions made it difficult to send volunteers into the schools to read, the teachers read and completed projects to support learning related to the book. Volunteers were able to read in 2 private preschools.

Additionally, Get Polk Reading helped promote Pre-K week and actively serves on the Ferst Readers Community Action Team to assist with fundraising, and leveraging funds from BRR to help send books home to kids 0-5 years old each month. Books come with a parent newsletter that guides them in using the book to increase connection with their children and foster a lifetime love of learning.

* Polk Family Connection also supports ***Graduate Polk***—a Polk School District program that works with students to remove barriers to graduation—whatever it might be, including providing school supplies, shoes, a bed to sleep on, clothes, etc. and making a washer/dryer available for students who have no way to wash clothes.

There will also be virtual parent meetings at schools with a local child psychologist for Peace Kit parents. The Anna Shaw Institute will also host an in-person session for those who wish to attend.

* Mental Health Advocacy
  + Bartow Collaborative partners hosted a ***Mental Health Resource Fair*** in which professionals who serve Bartow set up tables for social service providers to gather more information and resources. As a follow up to the event, the collaborative has put together a mental health resource guide to distribute to partners in meetings and via their website and social media.
  + Fannin County Family Connection:
    - Held 4 screenings of the movie **“Angst”** for 67 participants (including 27 high school students). One session was focused on high school students enrolled in Mountain Education Charter School - the local evening school predominately attended by young people who need to work to support their families. The documentary removes the stigma and opens up the conversation around anxiety, helping people understand and manage their symptoms, and know when to reach out for help. Most importantly, it shows people that they are not alone, and that anxiety is 100% treatable.
    - Provides the monthly ***Your Mental Health Matters*** TV broadcast. This outreach is designed to highlight mental health resources, reduce the stigma of mental health issues, and to open the conversation of positive mental health in their rural community. The motto of campaign is "It's Okay to not be Okay." Resource providers were interviewed, and information shared on this first of five local access shows. The televised show was recorded and then uploaded to the FCFC YouTube Channel. You can view all 6 shows at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5g42AgaAkiDXAxD3aSqOAQ>
    - Hosted the ***Community Service Conference Television Broadcast***. Designed to inform community of the prevalence of human trafficking, four speakers provided information via public access television. Additionally, the collaborative held an essay writing competition at the local high school. The show was lauded as one of the best sources of information compiled statewide. The show is also available for streaming at the FCFC YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38VD3GkEhDE> .
  + Murray County Family Connection represented our project at their ***Community Stakeholder Meeting*** sharing information with other participants explaining how mental health issues are being address in the county and by their annual plan strategy.
* Recovery and Substance-Abuse Advocacy –
  + Bartow Collaborative partnered with ***Recovery Bartow*** (a nonprofit) to implement trauma training and plan to implement the TBRI Caregiver Training for parents trying to reunify with their children. Recovery Bartow was provided with several trauma-informed children's books (Riley the Brave) to keep at the Recovery Community Organization (RCO) which is called The Arena. Additionally, Recovery Bartow hosted a stakeholder summit "Saving Lives-Saving Dollars" The Human & Economic Cost of Untreated Mental Illness and Addiction. The Bartow Coordinator was one of the speakers and talked about ACEs/trauma/resilience and addiction.
  + Chattooga ***Red Ribbon Week*** - Chattooga Family Connection provided a pizza party for two classes chosen by each school as part of the school system’s Red Ribbon Week. During that week, schools utilize spirited activities to advocate against substance use/abuse and promote positive and healthy behaviors. There was one winning class in each elementary school: Trion Elementary. Lyerly Elementary, Menlo Elementary, and Leroy Massey Elementary.
  + Floyd County hosted presentation from ***Floyd Against Drugs*** at a monthly collaborative meeting. Their presentation brough awareness of how substance misuse impacts the user and their family for years to come. It informed collaborative partners in an effort to support them in identifying and providing needed services to the entire family.
  + Paulding County Family Connection supported the first ***Overdose Awareness Vigil*** to help those recovering from mental health and addiction. This allowed residents to join in support of those in recovery and comfort those that have lost loved ones to overdose. This will be an annual event and increased partner participation is anticipated.
  + Polk County Family Connection provided support and participated with ***Mosaic Place Recovery Advocacy Center*** for their 3-year anniversary celebration. During the celebration, the collaborative provided organization and resource information, and promoted suicide prevention and resources.

Polk County Family Connection and its coordinator have been very active in supporting the creation and development of a ***Polk Against Drugs (PAD)*** coalition, serving as a leader in the coalition’s development. As a result, the PAD is working to become a 501c3 organization and hired a Director in mid-November. They have recruited a board, developed a website, created a logo and are strengthening partnerships. With a recently awarded 5-10 CDC Drug-Free Communities grant for up to $1.8 million received in partnership with the Georgia Prevention Project, the initiative will focus on prevention program implementation for youth. As part of the work, they will outfit a bus donated by the school system into a Choice Bus to aid in efforts to decrease use of drugs, tobacco, vaping and underage drinking. Students helped to name it the ***Better Together Bus***. A local family contributed $20, 000 for the remodel, art students will help design and decorate it, and the Sheriff’s Department will provide materials for a mock jail cell.

* + Haralson County Family Connection (HCFC) has served as a leader in the creation of the ***Your Haven*** recovery center organization, helping to secure a location and fundraise for program and service implementation. The Coordinator was instrumental in drafting a recently awarded State of Hope grant application. With $30,000 in funds from this grant, Your Haven was able to hire a full time Outreach Peer Support Coordinator. She has been able to plan and provide at least one event a month for both peers and the community. There are now classes every day of the week, including: DA (drugs anonymous), CMA (Crystal Meth anonymous), AA, All Recovery, HA, Artistic Recovery and al-anon as well as an additional Family Support Group.

They are now providing trainings such as SOAR (science of addiction and recovery) for the community. HCFC is partnering with Your Haven to provide this training to our DFCS staff, Foster Parents and community leaders.

* + ***Pickens County Red Ribbon Proclamation*** - Members from the Pickens County school system, county and city government, local business, and service organizations joined for the annual proclamation reading and signing to bring awareness to creating a drug free community.
* Trauma-Informed Collaboration –
  + As a leader in the ***One Door Polk*** (ODP) resource center, Polk Family Connection has worked to increase understanding of poverty and trauma and the ability to implement a poverty- and trauma-informed approach to collaboratively meeting the needs of children and families in the surrounding community. Funds from BRR support these goals and provide incentives for trainings and information meetings to build the capacity of the 15 family serving agencies located at ODP. These partners are meeting regularly and have implemented the Parenting in a Pandemic Civic Dinner discussion, participated in QPR Training and have requested more discussions and information related to suicide prevention and the Polk Family Connection strategies and implementation. In future meetings, they will participate in Darkness to Light Training, Poverty and Trauma 101 workshops.

BRR funding supports the vision at ODP to develop a Youth Support group space. Office space has been identified, painted by volunteers and updated with donated furniture. Multiple groups are interested in utilizing the space including foster teens, CHINS—Children in Need of Services teens, and a drug prevention teen group. Funding also included scholarships for 10 students to take their GED tests as well as other updates for ODP and other unaddressed needs of families being served. We will be utilizing funds for additional promotions and the purchase of training materials related to trauma, poverty, parenting and others as identified.

Polk Family Connection and the partners at One Door Polk have leveraged this work to secure a $24,000 State of Hope Grant. The purpose of this funding is to ensure ODP partners work together to increase family resilience, increase access to early childhood education and increase community knowledge and awareness of the factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect and the capacity to prevent it. In order to fulfil those objectives, they are in the process of hiring a bilingual Family Navigator for One Door Polk (ODP) to help families better connect to the providers and services being offered at ODP. The Navigator will be the greeter at the family resource center and assist in connecting families to the appropriate providers to meet their unique needs. They will also assist in updating the community resource directory and collect and update resource information in the ODP Resource Room.

* + ***DECAL Trauma-Responsive Care Grant***: Whitfield Family Connection was awarded $10,000 in April 2021 from DECAL for Trauma-Responsive Care initiatives. The Coordinator is working closely with Suzanne Harbin of the Early Childhood Initiative and members of our local Birth to 8 committee to attend trainings, coaching session and meetings to plan the project. In December, they received all the pieces for our “Cozy Corner” supplies for QCC daycares and Pre-K classrooms, as well as “Peace Kits” for parents who have been referred by teachers. Receipt of these kits were linked to participation in DECAL’s Summit on Nov. 13 & Dec. 4. By participating, these parents received training on trauma-responsive care, and training credits for attending. They learned the importance of helping kids decompress instead of retraumatizing them. The goal is to make it easier on the child, teacher and classroom. Additional Peace Kits are being created for families recommended by teachers. These kits will have items to help children calm down at home, as well as materials for parents to better understand the best way to deal with challenging behaviors….and better understand their own behaviors which might have resulted from childhood trauma.
  + Are you providing any Prevention or Intervention Services?

If so, please describe current efforts, including key accomplishments till date, any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any

Prevention activities are being implemented in each county. Details are listed below.

* + Catoosa Family Connection is providing ***Nurturing Parenting Classes*** with childcare and dinner for at risk families in the county. 7 parents participated in this family-centered, trauma-informed program designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices. A second round of the program is beginning in February.
  + Bartow Collaborative and its partners implemented a ***Reality Store*** over 3 days with 1,120 high school freshmen. The Reality Store is a financial simulation that allows students to learn more about career planning, money management, budgeting, and decision making. Students go through the process of choosing a career, receiving a “paycheck,” and learning to budget their pay to meet monthly expenses, along with unexpected expenses. An additional 27 young adults in Youth Explosion Bartow, a youth educational day organized by minority adults for minority youth, also participated in the Reality Store activity.
  + Dade FIRST – Family Connection:
    - Hosted 8 foster parents for the ***AHA Emotional Poverty workshop*** to help them build awareness and their capacity in coping with emotional poverty.
    - Coordinates with Four Point to provide free Nurturing Parenting classes for 4 parents seeking support in improving their parenting skills.
  + Polk Family Connection hosted a ***Suicide Prevention Presentation*** from Highland Rivers at their monthly collaborative meeting. They helped collaborative partners better understand suicide prevention issues and resources available, in addition to soliciting participation in a newly formed prevention subcommittee. Additionally, the collaborative provided an overview of trauma-informed care and best practices to partners residing at the local resource center, One Door Polk.
  + **Teen Maze** was implemented in Murray and Whitfield Counties with 10th graders. The event included presentations at all Whitfield & Murray county high schools and two Dalton Public Schools high schools. The first half of the program was an in-person presentation by Chris Sandy of Enduring Regrets. The second half of the program was a video covering pathways typically used in the in-person Teen Maze format including unprotected sex, dating violence, substance abuse, distracted driving and the importance of graduation.

Intervention activities are being implemented in each county. Details are listed below.

* + ***Truancy Treatment Teams*** designed to leverage community support to address challenges that foster school absenteeism are supported by the Dade, Pickens, Walker and Whitfield collaboratives. Coordinators work with the school and collaborative partners to wrap needed resources and services around students with high numbers of absences and their families.
  + ***Chattooga Hunters for Hunger*** was created to support children and families with food insecurities in Chattooga County. The Collaborative purchased freezers for the school system and has partner with local hunters and a butcher shop to keep them stocked with meat for families in need. The school identifies those families and coordinates food distribution while the collaborative promotes the program to the community and ensures the freezers stay stocked.
  + ***Gilmer County’s Warming Station*** - Over the past year, a warming center has been established in Gilmer. Working with county officials and volunteers, this center is open on nights where the forecast is below 30 degrees. The goal is to have a permanent location established and continue to provide these individuals with wrap-around services.

The role of Gilmer Family Connection has been to bring community leaders together and get the right people at the table to move the work forward. The collaborative provides training opportunities to the volunteers, including poverty and trauma training. They share up-to-date information with the community on their Facebook page, newsletter, and newspaper. Gilmer has leveraged funds from this project to support the warming center with mini grants. As the weather changes, efforts will shift to finding a permanent location andproviding wrap-around services.

* + Murray’s ***Community Resource Room*** is in a classroom at the school’s Enrollment/Pre-K Center established by their Lead Partner, social workers and the coordinator. It contains new undergarments and socks, bookbags and school supplies, as well as a toiletries section stocked by a grant from an education hygiene grant. Students at the high school created racks to hold clothes and coats. There is an area for blankets and heaters, and a section of prom dresses that were donated by a small shop called Satin and Lace. More than 100 prom dresses were donated for the girls who otherwise would not be able to afford them. The room is managed in partnership with the collaborative and the school social worker.
  + ***Whitfield’s Housing Stability Coalition*** – Whitfield’s Family Connection is an active member of this coalition, meeting to discuss options available and actions needed to address housing issues in the community related to homelessness, transitional housing, workforce housing, etc.

In alignment with the Strengthening Families 5 Protective Factors, our Family Connection Collaboratives work with partners to ensure that children and families have access to concrete supports in times of need. We facilitate support programs and events with Collaborative partners that provide children and families with food, clothing and coats, back-to-school services and supplies, holiday toys and gifts, books, support for utilities, household items and meals. We know that intervening in this way pulls families out of crisis and improves family stability.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of Concrete Support** | **Counties Providing** | **Number Served and Participant Type** |
| Back to School Events and Supply Drives | Bartow, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Haralson, Murray, Paulding (2), Polk, Walker and Whitfield | 7,671 school-age children and their families |
| Book distribution and educational resource information | Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Polk, and Walker | 1,245 school-age children |
| Christmas gifts and holiday meals | Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gilmer, Haralson, Murray, Walker and Whitfield | 11,673 school-age children and their families |
| Coats and Blankets | Fannin and Gilmer Counties | 602 Community Members |
| Diaper Give-Away | Polk | 15 new parents |
| Food Distribution | Fannin, Floyd, Murray and Whitfield | 1,876 families |
| Halloween candy and resource guides | Chattooga, Floyd, and Polk | 275 individuals |
| Thanksgiving meals/food box | Chattooga, Haralson, Whitfield | 1,030 families |
| Veterans Day gift bags | Chattooga | 14 veterans working in the school system |

* Are you participating in any Research activities?

If so, please describe current efforts, including key accomplishments till date, any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any

The coalition of partners is not currently engaged in research activities. However, our collaboratives and their partners in Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens counties have partnered with the Morehouse School of Medicine, Highland Rivers Health and Georgia Mountain Health services. They have formed a collaborative Community Education and Training in Opioid Use Reduction (CETOUR) coalition to reduce the prevalence of opioid use disorder (OUD) in rural North Georgia. They aim to combat Opioid Abuse, Misuse, and Overdose by educating community officials such as law enforcement officials, healthcare and social service providers, and community members to promote the understanding of substance use disorders as a chronic disease to reduce related stigma. They also aim to promote evidence-based prescribing guidelines, screening tools, and treatment protocols by hospitals, primary care providers, and other clinicians through expanding access to treatment, harm reduction, prevention, recovery, and other support services. We expect the initiative to be fully evaluated by Morehouse School of Medicine.

* + Do you provide any Training opportunities?

If so, please describe current efforts, including key accomplishments till date, any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any

* Have you visited Resilient Georgia’s [Trauma Informed Training Roadmap](https://www.resilientga.org/trainingroadmap), and if so, how has it been helpful? How can it be more helpful?

Several of our coordinators have used the roadmap to identify training opportunities. Our members of the Training Committee hosted a walkthrough of the site at a Peer-to-Peer meeting and we have linked to it on our website, our Facebook Group and power points for each of our 101 workshops.

The table below outlines training opportunities, workshops and discussions implemented in the region and the number of participants served.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Community Awareness Training/Workshop** | **Description** | **# Participants** | **Participant Types** |
| Gilmer Resource Directory Training | A training for collaborative members so that they can better connect with and utilize county resources for the children and families they serve. | 25 | Collaborative partners and community members |
| Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) | The most widely taught gatekeeper training in the world, QPR is designed to help anyone learn how to recognize the warning signs of suicide, offer hope, and help save lives. Participants will learn how to intervene with an individual at-risk, persuade them to get help and guide them to the appropriate resources. | 33 | Parents in Paulding County  Collaborative partners in Polk County |
| Beyond Labels Headband Game – Communication Across Barriers | Participants explore the confining nature of labels and stereotypes. This activity assists participants in developing key strategies for improving communication and relationship skills to inspire an environment of collaboration. It helps participants in building communication and relationship skills with people struggling in the crisis of poverty. | 29 | This activity was implemented in Bartow and Floyd Counties with Collaborative partners. |
| Connections Matter Overview & Training | Connections Matter is an in-person and virtual training designed to engage community members in building caring connections to: improve resiliency, prevent childhood trauma, and understand how our interactions with others can support those who have experienced trauma. | 135 | Rome City School paraprofessionals, the Walker Co. Chamber Board and collaborative partners |
| Poverty 101 Workshop and Discussion | Workshop Purpose: the purpose of this presentation (its associated activities and discussions) is to increase awareness and understanding of root causes of poverty and the perspective and communication styles necessary to create resilience in families and our communities. Our hope: to encourage participants to become poverty- informed and/or poverty competent in order to build resilience. | 247 | Implemented in Bartow, Fannin, Polk, and Whitfield with collaborative partners and community members. |
| What Money? Bill Paying Activity and Poverty Simulation | The purpose of this engaging activity is to increase the awareness of poverty and its impact on those who rely on the helping professions. It comes prepared with all materials necessary for 48 individuals to participate. Through playing the game, individuals are exposed to similar challenges and decisions that people in poverty face every day. Through reflecting and examining the experiences of those who are served by helpers including educators, legal staff, medical personnel, social services, individuals often state that this game enlightened their knowledge of poverty more so than any text book. | 33 | Implemented in Pickens county with the adult and youth Leadership Pickens classes. |
| Trauma 101 Workshop and Discussion | *Workshop Purpose:* the purpose of this presentation and associated activities and discussions is to increase awareness and understanding of trauma and its effects on children, brain development, behavior, families and our communities.  *Our hope:* to encourage participants to become trauma informed and/or trauma competent. | 221 | Implemented in Bartow – County school counselors, staff from Advocates for Children, teachers/staff from Cartersville Primary School, staff at MRES, and foster parents served by Elks Aidmore |
| Trust Based Relational Intervention Caregiver Training | TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While the intervention is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI® is connection. This 24-hour training was delivered virtually in 8 parts and included Family Connection Coordinators from across the state, as well as a few Georgia Family Connection Partnerships Regional Managers and their Director of Community Support.  Moving forward, we are hosting virtual, monthly Learning Labs in which participants can get feedback and support in implementing the intervention. | 22 total participants  16 received all 24 hours of training | Family Connection Coordinators and Georgia Family Connection Partnership Regional Managers and the Director of Community Support |

* + Are you engaged in any Other efforts that do not fall into the categories listed above?

If so, please describe these efforts, including key accomplishments till date, any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any

In an effort to ensure our leadership is able to guide the work of our strategy, our Family Connection Coordinators continue to participate in professional development and capacity building activities. Below is a table of activities and the number of coordinators who have participated.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Capacity Building Activity** | **Number and Counties Participating** |
| Bridges Out of Poverty | 1 – Polk |
| Crisis Intervention Do’s and Don’ts | 1 – Polk |
| Cyber Security Webinar | 1 – Whitfield |
| Defiance of Hope Workshop | 1 – Whitfield |
| Insight Trauma and Caregiving Training | 6 - Bartow, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Polk, Walker |
| Poverty Simulation Training | 1 – Polk |
| Prevent Child Abuse Conference | 1 – Polk |
| What Happened to You - Georgia Reads event with Dr. Perry | 2 – Walker and Regional Manager |
| TBRI Caregiver Training | 5 – Dade, Fannin, Haralson, Murray, Whitfield |
| TBRI Two Day Implementation Intensive | 2 – Bartow, Regional Manager |

* Are your coalition’s efforts evidence-based?

If so, please describe what evidence-based approaches/ trauma-informed care models you are using?

Below are the training opportunities we are providing to raise community awareness and support future discussion for systems change. They are evidence-based or evidence-informed and will be delivered over the course of the next year.

* + ***Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)*** is an evidence-based, therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support and treatment for at-risk children. TBRI has been applied in orphanages, courts, residential treatment facilities, group homes, foster and adoptive homes, churches, and schools. It has been used effectively with children and youth of all ages and all risk levels.
  + ***Better Brains for Babies*** is a 9 module training created by the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services and the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevent and Treatment Act. It helps participants better understand brain development, the impact of nutrition and trauma on the developing brains, and the importance of experience, attachment, physical well-being, consistency and play.
  + ***Bridges Out of Poverty*** - This workshop, designed by the aha! Process prepares individuals to present the information from Bridges Out of Poverty to individuals in their own organizations. The training includes in-depth work on the Bridges Out of Poverty (Day One) and Applying Bridges Concepts (Day Two) workshop.
  + ***Connections Matter*** ***Georgia*** initiative is a 2 hr., in-person training designed

to engage community members in building caring connections to improve resiliency, prevent childhood trauma, and understand how our interactions with others can support those who have experienced trauma. It is a collaboration between the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, using curriculum developed by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa.

* + ***Darkness to Light*** uses qualitative and quantitative methods to inform program design, and then is monitored and evaluated for change. The results are used to iterate and improve programming and to ensure that they are creating meaningful and sustainable change. Stewards of Children® has been extensively evaluated. It is the only evidence-informed, adult-focused child sexual abuse training program available nationally.
  + The ***Strengthening Families Program (SFP)*** is an evidence-based family skills training program for high-risk and general population families that is recognized both nationally and internationally.
* Have you used or have plans to use telehealth or innovative technology, in your grant deliverables? Please explain.

We are currently hosting virtual meetings, trainings, advocacy and community awareness events/activities. When possible, Family Connection Collaboratives are hosting hybrid meetings (participants in the room and joining via Zoom) and program implementation. To get the greatest participation at our stakeholder meeting, with the lowest risk of spreading COVID, we are considering a simulcast in which small numbers of socially distanced partners will gather in each county and join the larger group via Zoom.

We do not currently have any telehealth activities, but our Family Connection Collaboratives are hosting Parent Cafés, Parent Ambassador Committees and other direct service to children, families and parents via Zoom when in person events are not possible.

* Does your coalition have any county/city/state leadership buy-in? If so, please describe

Our Family Connection Collaboratives have members that include Boards of Education, County Commissioners and Judicial Circuit representatives. As mentioned above, Speaker of the House David Ralston and Senator Steve Gooch are fully engaged in activities in Fannin County and have been longtime supporters of the Family Connection network. As we work to deepen the impact of our Regional Stakeholder meeting, we intend to invite locally elected officials (city and county) and share our results and next steps with locally elected state representatives.

* Does your coalition have rural, urban and/or suburban components? Please describe

Because our region is so diverse, counties determine their approach to implementation based on the configuration of their county’s geography. The region has a handful of large cities and those collaboratives tend to take an urban approach in and around those cities, while reaching the remainder of the county with a rural approach: Cartersville (Bartow), Rome (Floyd), Dalton (Whitfield). In most counties, our Family Connection Collaboratives take a rural approach to implementing their strategies and annual plans. In those areas, the focus is on leveraging available resources in a way that fills gaps, avoids overlaps and ensures that regardless of location families have access to needed resources and services.

* Please list all partners in your coalition – include organizations and individual’s titles that are actively engaged – please see the names and titles of our partners above on pages 1 - 3, below includes the organization name only.
  + Public: Pickens County Schools, Children in Need of Services – Haralson County, Children in Need of Services – Polk, Dalton Public Schools, Dade County Schools, Walker County Board of Education, Murray County Schools, Georgia Department of Education, North & NW Georgia RESA, Whitfield County Schools, GA DFCS, Georgia DECAL
  + Private:
  + Academic: Chattahoochee Technical College
  + Non- Profit: Bartow Collaborative Inc., Rome-Floyd Commission on Children and Youth, Fannin County Family Connection, Pickens County Family Connection Inc., Polk Family Connection, Global Impact (Restoration Rome), Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, Ferst Readers, LMO Pregnancy Center, Cedartown United Fund, Our House Battered Women’s Shelter, Murphy Harpst Children Center, Salvation Army, CASA Haralson County, Boys and Girls Club Murray County, Action Ministries, Paxen/Eckerd Connect, Recovery Bartow, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, Global Impact/Restoration Rome, Community Foundation for NW Georgia, Georgia HOPE, Children’s Advocacy Center – Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, Action Ministries
  + Community: Catoosa County Family Connection Collaborative, Inc., Chattooga County Collaborative, DADE First-Family Connection, Gilmer County Family Connection Commission, Haralson Coalition for Children, Youth and Families, Inc., Murray County Family Connection, Paulding Family Connection, Walker County Family Connection, Children and Families First Community Partnership for Dalton/Whitfield, Georgia Family Connection Partnership, Carroll County Child Advocacy Center, Family Alliance of Paulding, The Craddock Center, Advocates for Children
  + Other:
* What is the total number of partners in your coalition? 48
* What is the minimum age served by your ACEs/TIC related efforts? What is the maximum age served? Are parents/caregivers being served by your efforts?

Our initiative is broad based, and our strategy implementation and activities are aimed at organizations and partners that serve children 0 – 18 and their families (parents, caregivers, guardians), as well as young adults to age 24.

* Please describe what populations specifically are served by this coalition’s efforts and how you recruit/engage with each. Include numbers served if possible.

Beginning with capacity building and awareness efforts in our initiative, our primary population is professionals providing social services including non-profits, faith-based agencies, school systems and other state agencies like DFCS, DPH and DECAL who serve as our Family Connection Collaborative partners. Our focus has been on building the capacity of our coalition leadership (Family Connection Coordinators), partner representatives and staff, and caring adults in our communities. The goal is to increase understanding of trauma and poverty and position the partners to implement trauma- and poverty- informed approaches to their strategies and service implementation. We reach these populations through the community awareness and training of our Family Connection Collaboratives. Our capacity building and community awareness activities are implemented in monthly collaborative meetings, strategy team meetings, board meetings and special events held for specific target groups including community sectors, school employees, parents and caregivers, and the community at large.

Our direct service activities - prevention, intervention, concrete supports – are aimed at the region’s children and youth and their families, especially foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers. Early education and grade-level reading activities typically engage children preschool – 3rd grade. Our youth development and risk reduction activities have middle, high school and young adult (16 – 24) target groups. Our resource distribution (food, clothing, school supplies) are generally marketed to families with school age children, especially those families struggling in the crisis of poverty.

* Please provide an updated evaluation plan and describe what performance measures are being assessed, what evaluation activities have been conducted, a timeline for these activities, any results already collected and how these results will be used to inform the coalition’s ongoing efforts
  + Please also include any lessons learned and barriers experienced

Since May, we have been working with an evaluation consultant to build a comprehensive evaluation plan to measure the impact of the Building a Region of Resilience Initiative. The plan is attached as Annex A. In February, Family Connection Coordinators and the Project Manager will be trained by the evaluator to collect data via surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews. We will begin collecting this data in March and compile our baseline by the close of the fiscal year.

Through our implementation, we have learned that facilitating trainings and workshops, especially in a COVID environment is difficult. Understanding of the content is not always enough to ensure a positive experience for participants and virtual meetings require a unique skill set. We also recognize that joint implementation, utilizing more than one facilitator in a training, enhances the experience for participants. As we close out this grant year and enter into years 3 and 4, we are looking at ways we can deliver trainings and workshops jointly, serving multiple counties at the same time, while utilizing the knowledge and facilitation skills of two or more coalition leaders.

Lastly, we recognize the complexity of the TBRI framework and the difficulty some participants of Caregiver Training experience in applying the intervention in real-world situations. To support participants and give them opportunities for ongoing technical assistance, we are hosting monthly Learning Labs the first Friday of each month. During these virtual sessions, we share tips, tools and resources as well as provide opportunities for participants to get feedback on challenges and issues related to implementation.

* Please provide an updated financial report and describe how the grant funds have been used YTD vs projected amounts and how any remaining funds will be used
  + Receipts are not needed

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget Item** | **Budget Total** | **Year to Date**  **(as of 1.28.22)** | **Balance** | **Notes** |
| Regional activities including: Book study for community partners, Be Your Own LifeSAVERs initiative, meeting materials, printing and incentives | $1,550.00 | $1,161.22 | $618.72 | Identifying one representative from each committee to organize book study workplan |
| Community Awareness Training - leveraging capacity built in Y1 | $10,500.00 | $1,650.00 | $8,850.00 | Each county to identify a training as one of their 3 community awareness activities. Can utilize $750 to secure space, program materials, meals and snacks, certificates, incentives, mileage reimbursement to participants |
| Capacity Building and Professional Development – PTPN (FC Coordinators) | $7,000.00 | $500.00 | $6,500.00 | Continuing education for Family Connection Executive Directors, $500/county – focus on activities that improve ability to engage community, create community awareness and facilitate trainings and workshops. |
| Collaborative Programs & Services - AP Support | $70,000.00 | $40,000.00 | $30,000.00 | $5K per county (14 total) for direct service implementation aligned with their Family Connection FY22 Annual Plan strategies |
| Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform (14 total) | $2,100.00 | $900.00 | $1,200.00 | Based on 14 subscriptions at $150/county |
| Global Impact - TBRI Initiative - simulcast/training | $2,500.00 |  | $2,500.00 |  |
| Inclusivv Dinners in each county | $5,600.00 | $800.00 | $4,800.00 | 14 Civic Dinners @ $400 each |
| Broken Places Screenings | $750.00 |  | $750.00 | Partnership with Georgia CAC to implement 5 viewings - will get MOU once dates are confirmed: Nov. 8, Jan. 12th and Feb. 11th from 11:30 - 1, and March 12th 9-10:30 and April 12th 6-8:30 PM – will invoice at final viewing |
| Carry-over from Y1 - postage and monthly bank fees when necessary | $255.08 |  | $255.08 | Postage and monthly bank fees when necessary |
|  | **$100,255.08** | **$45,011.22** | **$55,243.86** |  |

* Please identify funding you have received from alternate sources: Federal, State, Corporate, Alternate Private Foundation or Other? Please describe

Each of our Family Connection Collaborative have received general operating funding from their Georgia Family Connection contracts with the Department of Human Services in the amount of $48,000/collaborative. In addition, collaborative partners provide in-kind contributions for office space, program materials, and benevolence supports (meals, clothing, books, toys, household supplies, etc.). A detailed accounting of matching funds from in-kind contributions will be included with our end of year report.

* Does your coalition have any communications aimed at the public? (E.g., website, blog, newsletter, social media, public events, etc.) If so, please list all and describe

Flyers for the Broken Places screenings were created in-kind by Prevent Child Abuse Georgia to advertise our 5 screenings. They are attached as Annex B. Flyers were created in pdf and jpg for easy sharing via email and social media. We have also created flyers for our upcoming book study groups, also attached in Annex B.

Our website is live as of Spring of 2021 and is promoted as a source for continued education at the end of our 101 Workshops. It can be found at: [www.ResilientNWGA.org](http://www.ResilientNWGA.org) . We hope that this site and our closed Facebook Group will help reinforce understanding of poverty and trauma and support us in building a common language within our region and collaboratives. Through the website and Facebook Group, we promote the Resilient Georgia Training Roadmap.

As we look towards years 3 and 4 of our initiative, we intend to create and implement a comprehensive communication plan/strategy to ensure our website is utilized and to help reinforce the use of our common language. Our intention is to ensure our activities and messaging associated with them are aligned with our mission, theory of change and understanding of the core definitions related to a trauma- and poverty-informed approach.

* Have you identified successful elements to building a shared language in your region? Please explain.

We have created Trauma and Poverty workshops and materials for use by Family Connection Coordinators, staff, board members and strategy team partners to deliver throughout the region. We believe that consistency in the delivery of these workshops and materials, along with the supporting resource webpages mentioned above will help us build a common language within the region.

***A Case for a Trauma-Informed Approach Workshop***

Workshop Purpose: the purpose of this presentation and associated activities and discussions is to increase awareness and understanding of trauma and its effects on children, brain development, behavior, families and our communities.

Our hope: to encourage participants to become trauma informed and/or trauma competent.

Participants of this workshop will learn about:

* Trauma and types of trauma including Adverse Childhood Experiences
* The Kaiser Permanente ACEs study
* Brain Development and the effect of trauma on the developing brain
* The relationship between trauma and behavior
* Resilience and building resilience in children and families
* Taking a Trauma-Informed/Competent Approach
* Resources for increasing knowledge and understanding of trauma and resilience

***A Case for a Poverty-Informed Approach Workshop***

Workshop Purpose: the purpose of this presentation (its associated activities and discussions) is to increase awareness and understanding of root causes of poverty and the perspective and communication styles necessary to create resilience in families and our communities.

Our hope: to encourage participants to become poverty- informed and/or poverty competent in order to build resilience.

Most of the information for this presentation is taken from Dr. Donna Beegle’s Poverty Institute training and her book “See the Difference…Be the Difference”. Additional information and slides have been taken from Prevent Child Abuse Georgia’s Poverty training, December 2020.

Participants in this workshop will learn about:

• The 4 different types/causes of poverty

• Root causes, underlying issues and barriers to addressing poverty

• Assumptions vs. realities of the crisis of poverty

• Theories and approaches to compassionately address poverty and create resilience, including Strengthening Families – 5 protective factors

* Please attach all marketing materials you are using for webinars, classes, movie screenings, trainings, etc.  along with participation at each event.
  + Did you do anything in particular with marketing for events that were especially well attended? If so, please share so other regions can learn from your success.

*\*Please continue to include the Resilient Georgia logo on all marketing items. We would like to highlight your work as much as possible and showcase our partnership and belief in your work.*

**Forward Looking Questions**

For Resilient Georgia’s next grant cycle for Years 3 and 4, one of the criteria will be that the regional coalitions consider sustainability and how to bolster their work to create systemic change in similar and consistent ways for statewide issues. Answers to the following questions will help inform future grant applications.

* Is your coalition interested in continuing formally with Resilient Georgia beyond Year 2?

If so, what are your capacity building needs to manage current and future grant deliverables?

Our Family Connection Collaborative and their coordinators are looking forward to continuing the project beyond year 2. Our greatest need is additional capacity building and professional development to support strategy and program implementation, especially regarding community organizing and facilitating community progress for our coordinators, their lead partners and board members. We anticipate providing more regional and multi-county activities so our leaders can better support one another in strategy/activity implementation.

* Please describe what you would like your coalition’s future strategic goals, priorities and focus areas to include?

In keeping with our theory of change, in the next phase of our work, we will focus primarily on increasing community awareness through training and advocacy activities and events, as well as systems change, with a focus on ensuring direct service implementation is aligned with our strategy frameworks and reflective of trauma- and poverty-informed best practices. The implementation of our evaluation plan will help us both share our successes and make decisions that ensure our impact and sustainability.

* What future partnerships would your coalition want to create or nourish, and on what projects/ initiatives?

As we move forward, we intend to expand our list of stakeholders and ensure the inclusion of youth, parent and caregiver voices in decision-making. We will continue to solicit support and engagement from locally elected officials and work to deepen our existing partnerships with DFCS Regions 1 & 3, the business community and civic and faith-based organizations.

* How will you expand and improve your evaluation metrics to assess the impact of your planned projects/initiatives?

We will continue to implement our evaluation plan, using data collected via feedback and community surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews to make real-time adjustments to program implementation and guide new activities and partnership development. As we develop and begin to implement our communications plan, we will add additional measures for evaluating the use of common language among our partners and within our communities and the impact of our advocacy and communication activities.

* How do you want to further diversify your coalition and ensure that your coalition’s efforts are equitable, inclusive, and affirming to all?

In addition to making a concentrated effort to engage community partners who can support our county level strategic plans, we are leveraging Georgia Family Connection Partnership’s Race Equity and Inclusion (REI) initiative. We will leverage last year’s training on facilitating difficult conversations and pair that with coordinators and county leadership access to the GaFCP’s disaggregated data tools. By doing this we hope to help our leadership better understand and explain differences in lived experiences within their communities. We will utilize GaFCP tools, resources and technical assistance to implement self and collaborative assessments. Finally, we will continue to rely on their expertise to ensure our programs, services and collaborative activities are equitable, inclusive, accessible and accommodating to all.

* Have your coalition’s ACEs Prevention and Trauma-Informed awareness and care related efforts produced any unintended consequences during the past 1.5 years? (Unintended consequences can be described as side-effects of a program or unforeseen damage/benefit done to intended beneficiaries, another relevant population segment, or the ecosystem[[1]](#footnote-1))
  + Positive consequences – As a result of this project, the Family Connection Collaboratives in NW Georgia are more aligned with one another’s work and regional partners supporting multiple counties are better able to understand the overarching mission of our network. The Coordinator in Dade County expressed: “This funding has provided a sense of security in these uncertain COVID times. Even though we were only guaranteed 2 years, it gave our Collaborative a sense of direction and sustainability during a time when things are changing at light speed.” The newly hired Coordinator in Gilmer stated: “As a new coordinator, this funding has helped bring community partners together and form stronger relationships. I have found the Civic Dinners and Mini grants extremely helpful.” Many others shared that it has helped their board and partners better align with their annual plan strategies.
  + Challenging consequences – Our coalition leaders are much busier and are working hard to fulfill responsibilities as a result of the additional activities, trainings and reporting requirements. We are working to ensure we are not putting unnecessary burdens on our leaders, helping them to better align their existing Family Connection deliverables with the deliverables and activities in this project. We are working to streamline participation in meetings and reporting commitments to ease those burdens.
* Of all the ACEs Prevention and Trauma-Informed awareness and care related efforts that your coalition has delivered since the beginning of this grant, which of these have proven to be effective programs that optimize for (some combination of) the following criteria1? Please describe.
  + Sustainability (longevity) –
  + Scalability (ability to increase number of individuals directly impacted by program)
  + Replicability (for another relevant population segment or the same population segment in another geographic location)
  + Catalytic Effect (inspiring additional investments in your coalition’s efforts or new, parallel efforts in your communities)

Our focus on systems change and the integration of TBRI Principles, Strengthening Families Protective Factors and best practices in trauma- and poverty-informed strategy implementation are helping to ensure our activities are sustainable and more impactful. As we test activities and services in one county, or part of the region, we are sharing our learning, challenges and successes with one another so that we can replicate those activities. At the close of last year, only the Floyd Collaborative was implementing a Parent Advisory Council/Committee (PAC). As of today, Paulding and Polk Counties are building their own PACs. As we close out this year, we intend to draft case studies on some of our most promising practices like taking feedback from Inclusivv Conversations to build workgroups to address the specific needs of our community like the work being implemented in Fannin County, or leveraging our work to secure additional funding like the in State of Hope grant awards in Haralson ($30K) and Polk ($24K) Counties.

As we share our great work with others, we can see the catalytic effect in:

* Grant funding from DECAL for both Bartow ($5K) and Whitfield ($10K) Counties and their efforts to address poverty and trauma to improve early childhood literacy,
* DFCS State of Hope grants for both Haralson (RCO) and Polk (One Door Polk),
* DFCS Family Support Cohort/Direct Support funding for Floyd County,
* Floyd County’s inclusion in the Early Care and Learning Data Literacy Workshop series,
* Fannin County’s partnership with the Fannin County Commission to install a back up generator with CARES Act funding so that the resource center can become an emergency shelter for the community.

1. ‘Strategic Approaches for Global Social Impact’ impact framework developed by Shashi Buluswar [↑](#footnote-ref-1)